



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

July 15, 2009

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moldaver called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Moldaver, Paul Bullock, Michael Jordan (5:57pm),
Natasha Lohmus (5:42pm), Roger Schlueter, George Weber, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: None

Liaison members present: None

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation

Commissioner Daniel Hochman, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Water
Resources Autumn Malanca, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Weber to approve the minutes of the regular
meeting of June 17, 2009.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Benson welcomed new Committee Member Mr. Paul Bullock, General Manager of the Eagle Inn. Mr. Bullock was appointed to the Committee by City Council on June 30, and will be representing the hotel and lodging industry on the Committee.

Mr. Moldaver noted that the Creeks Division is funded by the hotel and lodging industry through the transient occupancy tax.

Mr. Benson reported that Ms. Natasha Lohmus was also appointed to the Committee, and that she has a great deal of experience with and knowledge of creeks all along the Central Coast, particularly in the City of Santa Barbara.

Ms. Lohmus arrived at 5:42pm

Mr. Schlueter asked whether construction on the Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project began as planned.

Mr. Benson reported that construction began on the project at end of June, and is under construction; and, that the Committee will go on a site visit of the project in August, when it will be approximately 40% complete.

Mr. Benson noted that anyone interested in participating in the site visit can call the Creeks Division at 897-2658 to request notice of the meeting.

Mr. Wilson reported that he was on a property this afternoon in Sycamore Canyon where three sides of the property burned in the Tea Fire, and that there was about 60% groundcover on the steep hillside; and, that he was surprised and encouraged by the growth.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Storm Water Management Program Status Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a status report on the City's Storm Water Management Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – July 2009

Power Point Presentation – July 2009

Speakers:

Autumn Malanca, Water Resources Specialist

Mr. Jordan arrived at 5:57pm.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Moldaver asked for the name and phone number of the new Code Enforcement Officer.

Ms. Malanca reported that the new Code Enforcement Officer is Jim Rumbley, and the Enforcement Hotline is 897-2688.

Committee members asked questions regarding how specific the Storm Water Management Program (SMWP) is; and, whether businesses have been applying for grants through the Business Assistance Program.

Ms. Malanca reported that the SWMP addresses National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations, requiring that the volume and rate of storm water running off of parcels is limited, and that the 85th percentile of rainfall be treated, which is 1" for Santa Barbara; and, that there have been many calls regarding the Business Assistance Program, and products have been purchased for 3-4 businesses.

Mr. Wilson encouraged business owners viewing the meeting to contact the Creeks Division for information on the Business Assistance Program.

Ms. Malanca noted that the SWMP addresses all water discharges and non-point source pollution, which includes dry weather flows such as wash water, irrigation overflow, any pollutant, construction materials, or sediment, and the pollutants do not have to be water based.

Committee members asked where homeowners can obtain the Homeowner's Guide to Managing Storm Water brochure; what a new storm water ordinance will mean; and, whether the post-development requirement is to meet pre-development runoff levels or to improve them.

Ms. Malanca reported that the brochure is available at the Community Development Planning Desk at 630 Garden Street, and is available online at www.sbcreeks.com; that section 16.15 of the City's municipal code prohibits water pollution, which is what the Creeks Division uses to enforce water quality violations, but the storm water ordinance will more specifically address the goals and requirements of the SWMP; and, that current post development runoff levels must not exceed pre-development levels, and that projects must capture and treat a 1" storm from the hard surfaces on site.

Mr. Jordan encouraged changing post-development requirements to decrease runoff levels rather than only meeting the status quo; and, noted that he frequently sees members of the Architectural Board of Review and the Planning Commission referencing the Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMP) Guidance Manual, and that he hopes it will become a code rather than a guideline.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

b. Jesusita Fire Impacts and Response Plan

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the watershed impacts and post-fire response plan for the Jesusita Fire.

Documents:

Staff Report – July 2009

Power Point Presentation – July 2009

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked whether engineers are able to project the location and amount of sediment that will come down through the watershed, where it will backup, and how much will make it to the ocean; whether the Cabrillo Boulevard bridge replacement project is at risk due to the uncertainty of debris coming down the watershed during construction; and, whether long range forecasting has been done regarding the El Nino year.

Mr. Benson reported that there are modeling programs to project where sediment will go, that bridges may be backup points, although it is difficult to estimate due to the random nature of sediment and debris moving through the creeks; that the question of potential risks to the bridge project should be addressed by the City Engineer designing the project, and that Public Works is taking the lead in preparing for potential flood or debris flows; and, that the National Weather Service is anticipating a moderate El Nino year, which means average to slightly above average rainfall, and there will likely be a more detailed forecast in the fall.

Mr. Schlueter expressed his concern regarding the projection of 17 to 23 times more sediment coming down the watersheds.

Mr. Wilson noted that the good news is that the fire took place during May rather than October, allowing several months of revegetation to help soften some of the potentially alarming effects of the fire.

Committee members asked who residents can contact to ensure they have adequate flood insurance coverage, and whether the City and County Flood Control will be publicizing potential threats and flood evacuation routes; whether UCSB's Marine Science Institute, Bren School, and School of Geography have been involved in research projects on the effects of the fire; and, whether staff will be able to give a subsequent assessment of the short, intermediate, and long term effects on the biological ecosystems in the burn area.

Mr. Benson reported that potential threats and evacuation routes will be publicized, and that the best source of information on flood insurance and preparation is the County's website, www.countyofsb.org; that the agencies mentioned in the report are primarily focused on public safety and flood prevention, but that staff has been in contact with UCSB and the Bren School regarding access for research programs and coordinating research to complement and share data; and, that while riparian habitat is all that was left in the burn area, some early regrowth is already appearing, and the BAER report estimates it will take 3-5 years for vegetative cover to provide habitat, and the riparian habitat may be at risk to large debris flows taking out trees.

Committee members asked questions regarding displacement of wildlife and who to contact for more information.

Ms. Lohmus reported that the California Department of Fish and Game has brochures available online at www.dfg.ca.gov regarding dealing with nuisance wildlife, and that animals will be seeking water and food; that residents should keep their pets in at night, keep garbage cans covered, and keep pet food inside; and, that residents can also contact the Wildcare Network in Santa Barbara, or Julie Desiano in Santa Ynez, who will take injured wildlife of all kinds, and can be reached through the Sheriff's Department.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Jordan reported that he attended the Upper Las Positas Creek Restoration and Storm Water Management Project stakeholders meeting at the Santa Barbara Golf Club on July 9, and encouraged the Committee to attend next month's site visit. Stakeholders meetings will take place every other week, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 23rd at 11:00am at the Golf Club.

Ms. Smith reported that the Creek Week kick-off meeting took place on the morning of July 15th, and that staff is working with various local organizations as well as the County of Santa Barbara's Project Clean Water, the City of Carpinteria, and the City of Goleta to organize the week of events. The 10th Annual Creek Week will take place September 19th – 26th, coinciding with the 25th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 19th, and events will be listed online at www.sbcreekweek.com.

Mr. Moldaver noted that Creek Week is a family friendly event with many volunteer opportunities to get involved in the community and help to restore creeks and beaches, and that Saturday, September 19th is also the United Way Day of Caring.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee Members Wilson/Bullock to adjourn.

Chair Moldaver adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager